

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function,  
5 comprising:

E-mail transmitting means for sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

requesting means for requesting reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is  
10 sent by said E-mail transmitting means;

communication managing means for managing transmission information of each of said sent E-mail data; and

control means for updating the transmission  
15 information which is managed by said communication managing means on the basis of a reception result of the reply E-mail responsive to said sent E-mail.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
20 said requesting means requests reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail to be sent.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further  
25 comprising selecting means for selecting ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting means,

and wherein said communication managing means

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manages ON/OFF of the request of said reply E-mail as  
transmission information every sent E-mail.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
5 said control means updates the transmission information  
which is managed by said communication managing means  
to first information showing that the reply E-mail  
responsive to said sent E-mail has been received.

10 5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said control means updates the transmission information  
which is managed by said communication managing means  
to second information showing that the reply E-mail  
responsive to said sent E-mail is not received within a  
15 predetermined period of time.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising output means for visually outputting the  
transmission information which is managed by said  
20 communication managing means.

7. An image communicating apparatus which is  
connected to a network capable of performing E-mail  
communication and has an E-mail communicating function,  
25 comprising:

E-mail receiving means for receiving E-mail data  
accompanied by an image file;

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detecting means for detecting control information  
which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data  
received by said E-mail receiving means; and

notifying means for notifying the detection of  
5 said control information by visualizing means or  
monitoring means.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said notifying means performs the notification before  
10 contents of the E-mail whose control information was  
detected are visually outputted.

9. An apparatus according to claim 7, further  
comprising output means for visually outputting  
15 contents of the image file attached to the received E-  
mail,

and wherein when the image file attached to the E-  
mail whose control information was detected is visually  
outputted, said notifying means adds information  
20 indicative of the detection of said control information  
to a part of said image.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
when the image file attached to the E-mail whose  
25 control information was detected is visually outputted,  
if the reply E-mail responsive to said control  
information has already been sent, said notifying means

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adds information indicative of a completion of a response to said control information to a part of said image.

5           11. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

10           12. An image communicating method in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

15           an E-mail transmitting step of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

            a requesting step of requesting reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is sent by said E-mail transmitting step;

20           a communication managing step of managing transmission information of each of said sent E-mail data; and

25           a control step of updating the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing step on the basis of a reception result of the reply E-mail responsive to said sent E-mail.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein in

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said requesting step, reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail to be sent is requested.

5           14. A method according to claim 12, further comprising a selecting step of selecting ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting step,

            and wherein in said communication managing step, ON/OFF of the request of said reply E-mail is managed  
10           as transmission information every sent E-mail.

            15. A method according to claim 12, wherein in said control step, the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing step is  
15           updated to first information showing that the reply E-mail responsive to said sent E-mail has been received.

            16. A method according to claim 12, wherein in said control step, the transmission information which  
20           is managed by said communication managing step is updated to second information showing that the reply E-mail responsive to said sent E-mail is not received within a predetermined period of time.

25           17. A method according to claim 12, further comprising an outputting step of visually outputting the transmission information which is managed by said

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communication managing step.

18. An image communicating method in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving step of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received by said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step of notifying the detection of said control information by visualizing means or monitoring means.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein in said notifying step, the notification is performed before contents of the E-mail whose control information was detected are visually outputted.

20. A method according to claim 18, further comprising an output step of visually outputting contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

and wherein in said notifying step, when the image file attached to the E-mail whose control information was detected is visually outputted, information

indicative of the detection of said control information is added to a part of said image.

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21. A method according to claim 20, wherein in  
5 said notifying step, when the image file attached to  
the E-mail whose control information was detected is  
visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to  
said control information has already been sent,  
information indicative of a completion of a response to  
10 said control information is added to a part of said  
image.

22. A method according to claim 19, wherein said  
control information is information for requesting reply  
15 E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification  
of the E-mail.

23. A computer program which is executed by a  
computer of an image communicating apparatus which is  
20 connected to a network capable of performing E-mail  
communication and has an E-mail communicating function,  
comprising:

an E-mail transmitting step of sending E-mail data  
accompanied by an image file;

25 a requesting step of requesting reply E-mail  
responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is  
sent by said E-mail transmitting step;

a communication managing step of managing transmission information of each of said sent E-mail data; and

5 a control step of updating the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing step on the basis of a reception result of the reply E-mail responsive to said sent E-mail.

24. A computer program which is executed by a  
10 computer of an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving step of receiving E-mail data  
15 accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received by said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step of notifying the detection of  
20 said control information by visualizing means or monitoring means.

25 25. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 23.

26. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 24.

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27. An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a public line network, comprising:

E-mail means for sending and receiving E-mail via  
5 an E-mail server enclosed in a communication network;

memory means for storing communication management information of said E-mail;

communication management information forming means  
for, each time said E-mail is sent by said E-mail  
10 means, forming communication management information of  
said sent E-mail and storing it into said memory means;

updating means for, when a delivery status  
notification for said sent E-mail from said E-mail  
server is received by said E-mail means, updating  
15 contents of the communication management information of  
said E-mail which received said delivery status  
notification in accordance with said received delivery  
status notification; and

communication management report output means for  
20 outputting a communication management report indicative  
of the communication management information stored in  
said memory means.

28. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein  
25 said communication management information includes a  
transmission result of said sent E-mail, and said  
updating means updates the transmission result of the

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communication management information of the E-mail  
which received said delivery status notification in  
accordance with said received delivery status  
notification.

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29. An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein  
said delivery status notification for said sent E-mail  
from said E-mail server is a notification showing one  
of a "failed" notification, "delayed", "normal end of  
10 transmission", and "relayed" as a transmission result  
of said sent E-mail.

30. An apparatus according to claim 28, further  
comprising discriminating means for discriminating  
15 whether the delivery status notification for said sent  
E-mail from said E-mail server has been received by  
said E-mail means after the elapse of a predetermined  
period of time from the transmission of said E-mail or  
not,

20 and wherein if it is determined by said  
discriminating means that the delivery status  
notification for said sent E-mail from said E-mail  
server has been received, said updating means updates  
the transmission result of the communication management  
25 information of the E-mail which received the delivery  
status notification in accordance with said received  
delivery status notification, and

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said communication management report output means outputs a communication management report in which said transmission result was updated as a communication management report of said sent E-mail.

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31. An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein if it is determined by said discriminating means that the delivery status notification for said sent E-mail from said E-mail server is not received, said communication management report output means outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result of said sent E-mail has successfully been finished.

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32. An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a public line network, comprising:

E-mail means for sending and receiving E-mail via an E-mail server enclosed in a communication network;

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analyzing means for, when a delivery status notification returned from said E-mail server in response to the E-mail transmitted by said E-mail means is received, analyzing contents of said received delivery status notification; and

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error notification information output means for, when it is detected by the analysis of said analyzing means that said received delivery status notification

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is a transmission error notification of said sent E-mail, outputting error notification information indicative of a transmission error of said sent E-mail.

5           33. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output means comprises means for generating a warning sound as said error notification information.

10           34. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output means comprises means for printing and outputting said error notification information.

15           35. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output means comprises means for displaying said error notification information.

20           36. An image communicating apparatus for performing a facsimile transmission through a provider enclosed in a public line network, comprising:

communicating means which can selectively execute a plurality of communicating functions for performing

25           the facsimile transmission through said provider; and

communication management information forming means for, when the facsimile transmission is executed

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wherein with respect to the facsimile transmission by a specific one of said communicating functions, said communication management information forming means forms communication management information describing the fact that it is necessary to confirm a communication result of said facsimile transmission.

38. A communication result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail through an E-mail server enclosed in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

when a delivery status notification for said sent E-mail from said E-mail server is received, updating

contents of the communication management information of  
said E-mail which received said delivery status  
notification in accordance with said received delivery  
status notification; and

5           outputting a communication management report  
indicative of the communication management information  
stored in said memory means.

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10           39. A communication result managing method which  
is used in an image communicating apparatus having a  
plurality of communicating functions for performing a  
facsimile transmission through a provider enclosed in a  
public line network, comprising the steps of:

15           when the facsimile transmission is executed  
through said provider by each of said communicating  
functions, forming communication management information  
of said facsimile transmission,

20           adding information showing the fact that it is  
necessary to confirm a communication result of said  
facsimile transmission to the communication management  
information of the facsimile transmission by a specific  
one of said communicating functions.

25           40. A computer program for a communication result  
management which is used when it is executed by a  
computer of an image communicating apparatus which can  
perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail

through an E-mail server enclosed in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

each time the E-mail is sent, forming communication management information of said sent E-mail and storing it into memory means;

when a delivery status notification for said sent E-mail from said E-mail server is received, updating contents of the communication management information of said E-mail which received said delivery status notification in accordance with said received delivery status notification; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in said memory means.

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41. A computer program for a communication result management which is used when it is executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus having a plurality of communicating functions for performing a facsimile transmission through a provider enclosed in a public line network, comprising the steps of:

when the facsimile transmission is executed through said provider by each of said communicating functions, forming communication management information of said facsimile transmission,

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adding information showing the fact that it is necessary to confirm a communication result of said

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facsimile transmission to communication management information of the facsimile transmission by a specific one of said communicating functions.

5           42. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 39.

          43. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 40.

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